

THE ANNUNCIATION

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2017

Nursery

Our nursery is available for **infants through 4-year-olds** from 8:45 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. The nursery is located in the Preschool and Sunday School Building. Nursery Director Meg Zehmer and Cassie Vestal will be happy to help you get your child settled into the nursery.

Worship bags

We provide worship bags that contain a coloring page based on the Gospel reading of the day. They also have a wonderful parent-focused message on the back to help you talk about the day's reading with your child. Worship bags are in the front of Little St. Mary's and in the wood bins near the entrances to New St. Mary's.

Sermons available

Find past sermons available in hard copy in the narthex of New St. Mary's, or visit stmarysgoochland.org/sermons to hear audio and download print versions.

Connect with us

We would love to learn more about you! If you are a visitor, please pick up a **welcome packet** from one of our ushers.

Would you like to write for us? Contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org to learn more.

TODAY'S SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite One, *Little St. Mary's*

10 a.m. Sunday School and Confirmation Class, *Sunday School and Education Buildings*

10 a.m. Adult Forum: "I will, with God's help", *New Parish Hall*

10 a.m. Inquirer's Class, *Library*

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite Two, *New St. Mary's*

Noon Cookies and Coffee, *Café and New Parish Hall*

Do you receive email from us?

Visit stmarysgoochland.org/communications to sign up for weekly updates and news from us.

A WEEKLY REFLECTION

As I listened to the sermon last Sunday, I wondered in part how I would respond if I had been among those presented with the idea that Jesus had risen. Would I have needed to sink my fingers into His wounds? Or would His absence from the tomb been enough for me to know and believe? It was just another one of the many questions that I had confronted within a week that started so joyfully and ended so differently.

As I drove to church through the canopy of trees that crown Blair Road, I was partly comforted and partly haunted by the words of a mother who had just buried her thirty-year-old daughter. During the afternoon visitation, she told me that she had made the difficult decision to see her daughter's body. That decision had in fact brought her more peace than pain. It was then that she knew, that she believed, that what God has promised was realized. *Her daughter wasn't there.* She was with Him.

This mother knew like Mary Magdalene and she accepted that truth.

After church, I visited the gravesite of the beautiful young woman. Her path crossed my own for a brief but important time in my life years ago. I felt compelled to speak aloud on the one hand and to speak within on the other. Flowers adorned her resting place but I knew she wasn't there. I hadn't seen but I believed.

I think of heaven with that same certainty. Oh, the comfort it brings me! I don't fear death. I don't invite it in but I don't fear it. I don't have to see it to know with the same certainty that Thomas finally reaches once he accepts that the man before him is indeed the Lord. Today, it's so easy to demand proof in pictures, video, or DNA evidence. However, I am going to try to live with greater faith, to be less Thomas, more Peter.

I know there will be times when I need to reach into the wounds but not today.

Kerri White

WELCOME! Whether it is your first Sunday at St. Mary's, or your 401st, we're glad that you're with us. Please feel free to introduce yourself to a greeter, usher, or a clergy member, and consider filling out an information form. We invite you to join us on future **Sundays** at 9 a.m. for Eucharist or at 11 a.m. for Eucharist or Morning Prayer, on Wednesdays for **Noonday Prayer** at 12 p.m. in beautiful and quaint Little St. Mary's, for a **class** or **Bible study**, or for many of our other **fellowship** and **outreach** offerings. **Little St. Mary's** and **New St. Mary's** are also **open** Monday through Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. and available to you for prayer and reflection. See the back page to get a sense of what we have going on around St. Mary's.

NEXT SUNDAY IS CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY!

St. Mary's is delighted to **show our appreciation for our amazing children and youth members!** They lead much of the worship service on **Sunday, May 7 at 11 a.m.** and will greet you, usher you in, take up the offering, and serve as readers, intercessors, and acolytes. We are also excited to hear a sermon from Director of Children's Ministries Amelia McDaniel.

During the welcome and announcements, we will **recognize the 5th graders and 21 graduating seniors**, as well as the **committee members and Sunday School teachers** who are vital to our programming and ministries. There are 22 Sunday School teachers for the September to May school year. The Children's Ministries Committee and Youth Ministries Committee members volunteer their time to plan and organize children's stewardship and special events such as the All Saints' Day procession, the Giving Tree, Children's Christmas Lessons & Carols, and Easter celebrations.

On the first Sunday of every month, **the loose plate offering** (any money not designated toward a pledge or other fund) goes toward outreach and mission ministries of St. Mary's. On Sunday, May 7, **the offering will support our youth summer mission trips.** This July, middle school youth head to Lincoln County, West Virginia and high school youth visit the Lakota Sioux Reservation in South Dakota. As our youth go out into the world to follow Christ and serve others, please be generous in supporting this transformative opportunity.

Following the 11 a.m. service, please take a moment to thank these volunteers for their service this year while you are enjoying **birthday cake on the terrace.** Afterwards, we will host a luncheon for the Sunday School teachers and Children's and Youth Committee members in the courtyard.

ORDER OF ST. JOHN

The Richmond Regional Committee of the Order of St. John invites you to come together, for a **Choral Evensong Service of Rededication** and a reception to benefit **St. John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group this evening at 5 p.m. in New St. Mary's.** Inspired by Christian ideals, the hospital treats mostly Muslim patients with the help of many Jewish physicians who assist in training. For many years, the hospital group has battled eye diseases such as congenital cataracts, glaucoma, and traumatic injuries to the eyes. **The evensong is free to attend, but donations are graciously accepted.**

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Are you good at remembering faces but can never remember people's names? **St. Mary's is updating its ACS directory with new family photos! Starting today** and continuing for the next two **Sundays, May 7 and 14, and at the Seniors Lunch and at the Seniors Lunch and Parish Supper on Wednesday, May 17,** come and get your picture taken of you, you and your spouse, or you and your family. **Please gather in the Dover Lounge from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and after the 11 a.m. service, Noon to 12:30 p.m.** No need to formally sign-up, it will only take a few minutes! If you have questions, please contact Ashley Cameron at acameron@stmarysgoochland.org.

ADULT EDUCATION AND SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Want to know more **about what it means to be an Episcopalian**? Do you think that you might **want to be confirmed on May 21**? Do you have burning questions about the history of Christianity? Join Andrew Moore and Bob Hetherington for an Inquirer's Class meeting in the **Library at 10:10 a.m. today, April 30, and May 7 and 14**. Whether you desire to be confirmed in the Episcopal Church or are new to the Episcopal Church and just want to know more this is the class for you!

"Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?" Each time we have a baptism or confirmation in the church, we renew the promises of the baptismal covenant together. Join Weezie Blanchard in the **Adult Forum at 10:10 a.m.** this morning, next Sunday, April 30, and Sunday May 7 as we **explore just what these promises mean** and how they **inform the ways we live our faith in the world**.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Vacation Bible School registration is now available! Come gather for a fun week of "camping out" and learning about how no matter where we are, Jesus is with us. The week, July 10-14, is **open to all children ages 3 to rising 5th grade**. Rising 6th-Senior High School **students are invited to volunteer**. We also **need lots of adult volunteers** to make the week run smoothly. Fill out **your registration form** and **return to St. Mary's by May 21**. Please contact **Amelia McDaniel** at amcdaniel@stmarysgoochland.org for more information.

Spring cleaning? St. Mary's youth are hosting a Yard Sale on **Saturday, May 6** and all proceeds will go toward middle school and high school summer mission trips to West Virginia and South Dakota. We will **accept any donations in clean, decent condition** including furniture, appliances, books, clothes, etc. Please nothing edible. If your items are not sold, St. Mary's will donate them. **Beginning May 1**, you can **drop them in the New Parish Hall**. If you need assistance in locating the hall or bringing items inside, please contact **Elizabeth Baker** at (804) 784-5678. In addition, **Matt Rawls needs volunteers to help sort and price donations**. Please **contact Matt Rawls** if interested in assisting.

BISHOP'S VISITATION AND RECEPTION

Save the date for the Bishop's visitation. **Join us in welcoming the Rt. Rev. Ted Gulick**, Assistant Bishop, as we gladly receive the newly baptized and those who are committing and confirming their faith on **Sunday, May 21 at 11 a.m.** All are **welcome at the reception** following the service. The menu looks scrumptious!

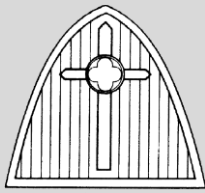
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To use Dwight's own words, it is a "mixture of joy and sadness" to **announce Organist and Choirmaster Dwight Graham's retirement**. Dwight has **faithfully served St. Mary's Episcopal Church since 1999**. He has grown our magnificent choir, expanded our musical horizons, and most recently invited us to participate in spiritual Choral Evensongs. As Dwight wrote to the choir, "I am truly grateful for my association with all of you and feel as though I've been enriched through that association. Together we have explored much Anglican choral literature that I may never have experienced had I not come to St. Mary's. You've definitely won me over to the Episcopal Church!" **Dwight's last day is Sunday, June 25**, the last Sunday of the choir season. We gratefully thank Dwight for everything he's brought to St. Mary's and wish him many lazy Sundays as he's been playing the organ on Sunday mornings for the last 48 years!

FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP

Seniors meet on the third Wednesday! Join parishioners of all ages for lunch in the New Parish Hall on **Wednesday, May 17 at 12:15 p.m.** (after Noonday Prayer in Little St. Mary's). This month's speaker is writer and lecturer, Dr. Mary Lynn Bayliss. Her most recent title is *The Dooleys of Richmond: An Irish Immigrant Family in the Old and New South*.

Monthly Parish Supper. Take a moment to pause from your busy week, and sit down with the St. Mary's community to **break bread together on Wednesday, May 17. Serving starts at 5:30 p.m.**



ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

12291 River Road, Richmond, VA 23238
(804) 784-5678
www.stmarysgoochland.org

| Growing in Faith |
| Building Community |
| Giving Joyfully |

CLERGY, STAFF, AND VESTRY

Gersain Agudelo, *Assistant Sexton*
Elizabeth Baker, *Administrative Assistant*
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Adam Bailey, *Children's Choir Director*
Louise Browner Blanchard, *Rector*
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Ashley Cameron, *Director of Communications and Parish Life*
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W. Dwight Graham, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Robert G. Hetherington, *Priest Associate*
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Matt Rawls, *Director of Youth Ministries*
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Deedi Trabosh, *Interim Accountant*
Meg Zehmer, *Nursery Director*

Susan Rawls, *Director of St. Mary's Episcopal School*

Vestry Members:
Al Rider, *Senior Warden*
Tracey Ragsdale, *Junior Warden*
Joe Cheely, *Treasurer*
Charmaine Trice, *Register*
Karen Huennekens, **Fay Lohr**, **Kim O'Shea**,
Doug Pera, **Betsy Rawles**, **Bruin Richardson**,
David Rose, **Tom Slater**, and **Russell Wyatt**

This Week at St. Mary's

Sunday, April 23, Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Sunday School, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
Adult Forum: "I will, with God's help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*
Order of St. John Service of Rededication, 5 p.m., *New St. Mary's*

Monday, May 1

Bishop's Spring Conference, *Shrine Mont*
Pastoral Care Team 1, 10 a.m., *Rector's Study*

Tuesday, May 2

Bishop's Spring Conference, *Shrine Mont*
Fellowship Committee, 9 a.m., *Old Parish Hall*
Staff Meeting, 2 p.m., *Rector's Study*

Wednesday, May 3

Bishop's Spring Conference, *Shrine Mont*
Lectionary Bible Study, 10 a.m., *Library*
Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Children's Choir, 5 p.m., *Choir Room*

Thursday, May 4

Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m., *Choir Suite*

Saturday, May 6

Youth Mission Fundraiser: Yard Sale, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

A.A., 10 a.m., *Education Building Classroom*

Sunday, May 7, Fourth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
Adult Forum: "I will, with God's help", 10 a.m., *New Parish Hall*
Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, Children and Youth Sunday, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cake and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Up

Sunday, May 14, Fifth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite One, 9 a.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Sunday School and Confirmation Class, 10 a.m., *Sunday School and Education Buildings*
Inquirer's Class, 10 a.m., *Library*
Holy Eucharist Rite Two, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Cookies and Coffee, 12 p.m., *Café and New Parish Hall*

Coming Soon

Wednesday, May 17

Noonday Prayer, 12 p.m., *Little St. Mary's*
Seniors Lunch, 12:15 p.m., *New Parish Hall*
Parish Supper, 5:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*

Sunday, May 21, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Holy Eucharist Rite Two with Holy Baptism and Confirmation, 11 a.m., *New St. Mary's*
Bishop's Reception, 12:30 p.m., *New Parish Hall*